

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19431 051743Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 EPG-02 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5131

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

UNCLAS PARIS 19431

USMTN

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, EPAP, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH SECTORAL PLAN FOR PULP AND PAPER
INDUSTRY

1. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY RENE MONORY ANNOUNCED JULY 4 A
FOUR-POINT GOF PROGRAM TO INCREASE FRENCH SELF-SUFFIC-
IENCY IN PULP AND PAPER, PARTICULARLY NEWSPRINT. THE
PLAN CALLS FOR (1) GOVERNMENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF COOP-
ERATION BETWEEN TIMBER PRODUCERS AND THE PULP
MILLS AIMED AT RAISING TO 80 PERCENT THE SHARE OF DOMESTIC
PULPWOOD IN THE TOTAL RAW MATERIAL INTAKE OF THE
INDUSTRY; (2) A RESTRUCTURING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BE-
TWEEN THE NEWSPRINT PRODUCERS AND THE PUBLISHERS AIMED
AT A NEWSPRINT SELF-SUFFICIENCY, INCLUDING RECYCLED
PAPER, OF 50 PERCENT BY 1980 AND 90 PERCENT BY 1985; (3)
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AN EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC PAPER PULP, NEWSPRINT AND
BOARD CAPACITY, WITH PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCING IF NEEDED,
INCLUDING STUDIES INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING A
NEW NEWSPRINT PLANT IN THE VOSGES REGION; AND (4) THE
EXPENDITURE BY THE GOF OF 50 MILLION FRANCS (ABOUT
10 MILLION DOLLARS) OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS ON
RESEARCH INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF ADAPTING THE MACHINERY

USED IN THE PAPER INDUSTRY MORE FULLY TO THE VARIETIES
OF FIBER PRODUCED IN FRANCE.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF SECTORAL PLANS
BEING GENERATED BY GOF MINISTERIES UNDER THE SEVENTH
FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO ENHANCE THE VIABILITY AND SELF-SUFFI-
CIENCY OF AILING FRENCH INDUSTRIES. TYPICALLY, IT SEEKS
TO ACHIEVE ITS AIMS MORE BY GOVERNMENT-DIRECTED COOPERA-
TION BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS THAN BY MAJOR
INPUTS OF PUBLIC CAPITAL OR RESEARCH. SINCE VIRTUALLY
ALL THE ENTERPRISES INVOLVED IN THIS INDUSTRY - FROM THE FOREST
TO THE PUBLISHING HOUSE - ARE IN THE PRIVATE
SECTOR, THE SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN WILL DEPEND LARGELY
ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE THE COMPANIES CONCERNED SEE IT IN
THEIR INTEREST TO COOPERATE. THERE IS NO DISCUSSION
AT THIS POINT OF IMPORT RESTRUCTIONS TO ENFORCE THE
PROCUREMENT OF DOMESTIC PULP AND PAPER.
GAMMON.

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